[redacted] Col Terhune

9 December 1957

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

WDOP

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCHRIEVER

1. While I was in Mr. Weitzen's office late Friday, 6 December, Mr. Weitzen and Mr. Oyster (Deputies to Mr. Horner, Assistant Secretary, R&D), engaged in a conversation pertaining to North American Aviation presentations on satellites and moon rockets.

2. North American in their presentations apprently are pushing strongly for the use of the Navaho boosters (tanks and engines) in a moon rocket and satellite program. The presentations they have made apparently are being favorably received. North American contends that they could build a moon rocket or satellite using the hardware from the Navaho cancellation and do this within the termination costs of the contract.

3. This same North American presentation was made to Senator Chavez during his visit and to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee last week and are apparently wondering why the Air Force has not taken advantage of the situation.

4. On the evening of 23 November, after Mr. Donovan and Colonel Norton had reviewed with you and General Ritland in San Antonio the proposed solid rocket program and the space program, I suggested to Mr. Donovan that the North American Navaho hardware be looked at by our people for possible use. Mr. Donovan said that he would do this. As of this date I do not know the status of a review by our people.

5. I recommend in view of the North American presentations to Congressional members and to several groups within the Air Staff, all of whom appeared to be favorably impressed by the North American capability, that we assemble a similar group to make a serious review if this has not already been done of the use of the Navaho hardware in the moon rocket and satellite programs. If we do not do this we will be faced with some embarrassing questions during the forthcoming Congressional hearings. Further, we face the possibility of losing the initiative within the Air Force of a satellite program to some other agency.

Copy furnished:
Gen Ritland
Col Terhune

B. L. BOATMAN
Lt Colonel, USAF
[redacted]
Chief, Plans and Policies Office